

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUGUST 1978

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

- In August 1978 there were 256 industrial disputes involving 155,900 employees and a loss of 250,200 working days.
- The largest disputes involved metal trades employees in New South Wales and stoppages in all States except Tasmania over the Federal Budget.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1.

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have

been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures.

Symbols and other usages

- Nil
- .. Not applicable
- p Preliminary — figure subject to revision.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,761
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1977	..	2,090	..	596.2	1,654.8	2.8	59,674
1977 —							
July	202	242	51.9	75.7	160.6	2.1	5,863
August	201	249	91.3	111.0	224.2	2.0	8,078
September	203	242	91.7	122.9	273.8	2.2	9,892
October (c)	185	209	41.2	52.5	166.2	3.2	5,933
November	145	176	33.4	54.2	88.9	1.6	3,253
December	99	116	12.5	15.2	23.1	1.5	936
1978 —							
January	118	118	14.9	14.9	30.5	2.1	1,237
February	183	192	34.0	35.6	69.7	2.0	2,640
March	156	183	32.1	39.3	83.5	2.1	3,286
April	184	208	102.1	110.0	227.5	2.1	8,078
May	225	249	346.9	368.9	413.6	1.1	14,156
June	178	200	57.3	60.4	150.6	2.5	6,253
July p	213	233	68.1	79.5	159.9	2.0	6,290
August p	234	256	142.4	155.9	250.2	1.6	9,498

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures. (c) Excludes an estimated 150,000 Victorian workers stood down as a result of the electricity supply dispute in that State (but at establishments other than those at which the stoppage occurred). These workers lost an estimated 2.1 million working days.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	Manufacturing				Constru- ction	Transport and storage; communication		Other industries (b)	All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other		Steve- doring services	Other		
	Coal	Other							
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1977	102.8	170.9	204.4	455.7	215.2	39.9	172.6	293.3	1,654.8
1977 -									
July	19.8	20.0	23.5	37.6	25.4	7.0	3.9	23.5	160.6
August	9.5	3.2	28.4	48.1	51.4	0.2	44.4	39.0	224.2
September	5.6	7.0	23.9	52.2	27.7	6.6	41.3	109.4	273.8
October (c)	2.3	6.3	9.4	48.1	16.9	12.5	9.9	60.9	166.2
November	7.1	11.8	18.3	30.6	3.9	0.5	13.1	3.6	88.9
December	2.5	3.3	2.1	10.5	1.8	0.7	0.9	1.3	23.1
1978 -									
January	2.7	4.0	2.7	9.1	7.4	0.6	1.7	2.3	30.5
February	8.9	4.2	12.7	20.9	6.8	0.8	7.3	8.1	69.7
March	11.6	8.1	15.9	13.2	6.2	4.7	16.4	7.4	83.5
April	6.6	15.0	65.9	84.0	2.0	39.7	9.7	4.8	227.5
May	7.4	14.0	288.6	32.6	20.0	14.1	13.5	23.5	413.6
June	36.4	13.6	24.0	17.4	14.2	3.7	26.8	14.5	150.6
July p	19.0	15.3	40.1	26.6	9.8	1.4	9.5	38.2	159.9
August p	13.5	24.4	111.6	40.8	28.0	6.2	16.9	8.8	250.2

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1977	538.2	586.1	240.8	30.6	220.5	26.7	1,654.8
1977 -							
July	63.9	44.0	16.8	1.8	22.7	11.1	160.6
August	86.7	94.1	24.4	6.7	8.8	2.4	224.2
September	86.1	131.5	48.3	0.1	3.6	2.1	273.8
October (c)	61.8	62.8	13.7	2.3	23.7	0.9	166.2
November	39.0	21.0	9.1	1.1	17.3	0.6	88.9
December	10.3	4.8	2.9	0.2	4.7	-	23.1
1978 -							
January	9.3	8.9	4.4	2.2	5.3	0.1	30.5
February	30.2	24.6	7.3	1.3	4.8	0.9	69.7
March	40.1	7.9	13.9	5.4	14.6	0.1	83.5
April	104.4	44.5	25.8	16.0	26.6	9.1	227.5
May	198.9	131.4	45.2	11.2	16.2	8.9	413.6
June	52.1	23.5	55.2	3.2	11.5	4.9	150.6
July p	90.3	19.2	24.6	5.4	17.4	1.0	159.9
August p	136.0	38.7	40.4	10.9	19.9	3.0	250.2

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (c) to Table 1.

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